

Advisory Committee on Pain & Symptom Management Recommendations for October 2009 through September 2011

In 2002, the Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management established 18 recommendations aimed at improving pain and symptom management in Michigan. By September 2009, nearly all of these recommendations were accomplished through efforts made by the Committee and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The Committee has established eight new two-year recommendations, which are targeted for completion between October 2009 and September 2011:

1. Convene a special meeting of state medical schools to explore ways to improve pain management education in both the medical school curriculum as well as the residency experience;
2. Present 5-10 comprehensive trainings on pain management to be offered to health care professionals and pre-professionals at key Michigan locations. The state should also make available such training as an online module and seek CME/CE sponsorship to make the training widely accessible;
3. Improve pain and symptom management of the elderly and those with advanced illnesses by impacting health professionals, patients, and their families in long term care environments;
4. Increase the use of the Michigan Automated Prescription System by health professionals and make the MAPS data and information regarding the use of controlled substances more available to health professionals;
5. Introduce a bill to establish a program to promote remediation of health care providers failing to appropriately prescribe or dispense controlled substances;
6. The MDCH Bureau of Health Professions should fully utilize its communication resources to disseminate pain management information to health care professionals, such as the FSMB Model Guidelines on pain management, MAPS information, state-sponsored pain management trainings, and other resource information;
7. Develop and implement strategies designed to improve the public's knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding pain and symptom management;
8. The Department of Community Health, together with the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, should determine that the practice of Interventional Pain Management is the practice of medicine. The boards should determine what specific practices of interventional pain management can be delegated to other health professionals.

To learn more about the Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management or these new recommendations, visit the department's Pain Management website at www.michigan.gov/pm.